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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 9 October 1951

SUBJECT 1. Military Information 2. Soviet Personnel

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Military Information

1. The Albanian Army is to receive new infantry arms from the USSR as soon as possible. The Soviet Union will also send enough artillery pieces to equip 12 field artillery groups, as well as armored cars and light tanks of recent construction.
2. At the end of 1950, the artillery units located in the barracks in the south military quarter of Tirana received new equipment which included:
 - a. New types of self-propelled Czech cannon of about 100 mm. caliber.
 - b. Motor-drawn cannon of about 200 mm., also of Czech manufacture.
 - c. Anti-aircraft machine guns and cannon mounted on vehicles in groups of 2 and 4.
 - d. Motor-drawn field artillery pieces.
3. By the end of April 1951, the re-equipment of 1 Infantry Division, 6 (sic) Infantry Division, and DMP (sic) with new Soviet weapons had been completed. Another division was to be re-equipped with similar armament by September 1951.
4. The artillery units in the Ali Riza barracks southwest of Tirana are equipped with large caliber pieces, anti-aircraft machine guns mounted on vehicles, and heavy vehicle-drawn mortars.
5. In February 1951, non-commissioned officers of the classes of 1918 through 1926 were temporarily recalled to active duty in the Army. They were placed in special units and are now being trained in the use of the new Soviet and Czechoslovak arms with which the entire Albanian Army is to be re-equipped.
6. The Albanian Army engineers are constructing gasoline deposits in various parts of the country. These deposits consist of one or more cylindrical tanks made of cement with a metal lining. Most of the tanks are underground. Of varying capacity, they are not necessarily located near other

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military installations. It appears that these tanks are to be used for reserve deposits.

7. One of the deposits has been constructed at the edge of Tirana, about 700 meters north of the former lumber depot which was attached to the engineering barracks. The deposit is completely buried in the slope of a hill. It is 4 meters high and 7 meters in diameter; its cement base is 40 centimeters thick; the sides are 16 meters thick; it has a flat roof 10 centimeters thick. The deposit is divided into 2 metal compartments of equal volume. They are lined with metal 1 millimeter thick. Each of these tanks is filled separately through its opening in the top. The tanks can be emptied through faucets attached to pipes running from the bottom of the tanks.
8. Three tanks of the same dimensions as those described above have been constructed in the military quarter of Burrel.
9. Toward the end of April 1951, about 1500 Greek guerrillas, formed into 3 battalions and 2 small artillery units, carried out tactical exercises in the area east of Librazhd. One company engaged in an exercise, including a night bivouac, on Mount Sebenik.
10. During 1950 and in January 1951, various types of Soviet and Czechoslovak vehicles arrived in Albania by sea, most of which have been assigned to the armed forces. The following types have been reported:
 - a. Soviet ZIS 6 cylinder, gasoline-powered, 60-quintal trucks (similar to Dodge medium trucks).
 - b. Czech Tatra (Skoda) automobiles, with motor in the rear.
 - c. Soviet ZIS 4-cylinder automobiles.
 - d. Soviet GAS jeeps, with a 4-cylinder motor similar to the U. S. Ford type A.
11. In the last part of April, the following equipment was unloaded at Durres:
 - a. 4 light tanks.
 - b. 6 armored cars.
 - c. 500 rifles.
 - d. 50 automatic rifles (fucili mitragliatori)
 - e. 30 machine guns
 - f. 10 mortars of 82 mm.
 - g. Four ZIS mortars of 120 mm.
 - h. Ammunition of various types.

Soviet Personnel

12. During the end of April and early May 1951, the last Czech, Hungarian, and Polish technicians and specialized workers, totalling 416, are reported to have departed for their respective countries. They have been replaced by Soviet personnel, almost all "very young, and coming from East Germany or Rumania."

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13. There are no Soviet military units in Albania. The Soviets now in Albania belong to military and economic missions attached to the various Albanian governmental and military organizations. Most of them are members of the Soviet armed forces, even though they wear civilian clothes.
14. Another informant stated that in addition to the Soviet personnel of the Soviet Legation in Tirana and of various economic and military missions, there are in Albania between 4,000 and 5,000 Soviet citizens, officially assigned as instructors, advisers, economists, and business and agricultural experts. All are in Albania without their families and relatives and, in general, are between the ages of 30 and 40. Most are in Tirana, but small groups of experts and observers are located in Shkoder, Vlone, Durres, Gjinokaster, and Sasene.

Airfields

15. The Tirana airfield is well-maintained. The poles which were set up and the holes dug in 1945 have been removed, and the entire field and main runway are useable.
16. The airfield of Ura e Hasan Beut has been renovated and is entirely useable.
17. The permanent Berat airfield has been renovated. The main runway, surfaced with gravel and rubble, has been repaired and is in excellent condition.
18. An airfield at Berat (sic) - presumably another one in temporary use) has been turned back for cultivation and is planted with wheat and corn.
19. Airfields at Lushnje and Fier have also been tilled for cultivation.

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